

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 01027 251426Z

43

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 NSC-05

COME-00 FRB-03 TRSE-00 AGR-05 LAB-04 ABF-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 H-02 /086 W

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R 251205Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 3255

INFM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

USMISSION GENEVA SWITZERLAND

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : UNDP, EAID, BA

SUBJECT : VISIT OF UNDP ADMINISTRATOR TO SAUDI ARABIA
AND BAHRAIN

REF : STATE 173395 (NOTAL)

1. THE ADMINISTRATOR OF UNDP, BRADFORD MORSE, MADE A QUICK, BUT APPARENTLY POTENTIALLY FRUITFUL, VISIT TO BAHRAIN, JULY 19-21. AS A RESULT OF HIS PRESENTATIONS TO THE AMIR OF BAHRAIN AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER, BAHRAIN WILL SHORTLY ANNOUNCE A "MODEST" INCREASE IN ITS VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNDP. MODEST BECAUSE OF BAHRAIN'S RELATIVELY PENURIOUS STATE, IN THIS REGION OF AFFLUENCE AND EXCESS INCOME.

2. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA), HOWEVER, MORSE'S MAIN REASON FOR COMING TO BAHRAIN (KNOWING OF ITS ECONOMIC STRAITS) WAS NOT TO GET SIGNIFICANT SUMS OF
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PAGE 02 MANAMA 01027 251426Z

MONEY (AS HE HAD HOPED TO DO IN SAUDI ARABIA), BUT RATHER TO

ENLIST THE FOREIGN MINISTER, SHAIKH MOHAMMAD BIN MUBARAK AL KHALIFA, IN AN EFFORT TO CONVINCE OTHER WEALTHY GULF STATES, WHERE UNDP ACTIVITIES ARE LESS WELL KNOWN, TO COUGH UP WITH A LOT OF MONEY. MORSE PARTICULARLY HAD IN MIND QATAR AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES BUT ALSO KUWAIT AND OMAN. MORSE ASKED SHAIKH MOHAMMAD TO TRAVEL THE REGION, ASKING FOR FUNDS ON BEHALF OF UNDP. SHAIKH MOHAMMAD, ACCORDING TO MFA, DECLINED, CITING HIS EXTRAORDINARILY DEMANDING ACTIVITIES WITH THE ARAB LEAGUE AND ITS LEBANON MEDIATION EFFORTS. INSTEAD HE OFFERED TO ORGANIZE A MEETING OF GULF FOREIGN MINISTERS IN NEW YORK BEFORE OF DURING UNGA TO WHICH MORSE WOULD BE INVITED AND WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE HIS OWN CASE FOR UNDP. BAHRAINIS PROMISED TO STRONGLY SUPPORT HIS PLEA. MORSE AGREED.

3. MFA STATED THAT IT WAS NOT AWARE WHETHER MORSE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN SAUDI ARABIA OR NOT.

4. DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MADE SPECIAL POINT OF TELLING EMBOFF HOW IMPRESSED BOTH THE AMIR AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER ARE WITH MORSE'S DYNAMISM AND DEDICATION TO THE UNDP.

5. EMBASSY MADE MAJOR ATTEMPT BRIEF GOB BEFORE MORSE'S ARRIVAL, FOLLOWING GUIDELINES REFTEL. AMBASSADOR OFFERED TO BOTH GOB AND UNDP TO FACILITATE VISIT IN ANY WAY APPROPRIATE, INCLUDING HOSTING LUNCHEON OR DINNER. GESTURE WAS APPRECIATED AND FUNCTION SCHEDULED UNTIL LAST MINUTE CHANGE IN PLANS SHORTENED MORSE'S STAY TO ONE WORKING DAY.

6. ON JULY 24, UNDP REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, ABDULLATIFF SUCCAR CALLED ON AMBASSADOR TO "APOLOGIZE" FOR MORSE'S INABILITY TO SEE US DURING HIS BRIEF VISIT. SUCCAR DESCRIBED THE REGIONAL STATE OF PLAY IN REGARD TO FINDING ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT, NOTED THAT MORSE HAD WANTED TO TRAVEL TO BOTH DOHA AND ABU DHABI FROM BAHRAIN BUT THAT FOR PROTOCOL REASONS HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO DO SO.

7. COMMENT: IN ANTICIPATION OF UNGA-PERIOD MEETING IN NEW YORK, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR DEPARTMENT TO ISSUE TALKING POINT INSTRUCTIONS TO REGIONAL INFO ADDRESSEES IN SUPPORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MANAMA 01027 251426Z

OF MORSE'S ANTICIPATED APPROACH TO THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS FOR FUNDS.

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Message Attributes

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